

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. The claims as amended herein address the rejections made thereto under 35 U.S.C. 112, and now more clearly state the particular information to which the second information processing apparatus makes reference to in verifying the first recording medium. In the Office Action, claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,857,021 to Kataoka et al. ("Kataoka") or as obvious over *Kataoka* in combination with one or more other references. For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The recitations defining the invention claimed, for example, in claim 1, are not met by the description of the system provided by *Kataoka*. *Kataoka* (col. 3, lns. 11-28) describes a computer system in which a terminal 11 has security controller software 12 which checks information on a disk 5 loaded in that same terminal to determine whether the disk is authorized for use. The security controller software provided in each terminal 11 as taught by *Kataoka* is not a second information processing apparatus to which unique information is transmitted over a network, as recited in claim 1. Note that the system described in *Kataoka* does not provide for each terminal reading information from the disk loaded therein, and sending it over a network to another computer, for example, the host, together with unique information relating to the terminal. *Kataoka* neither teaches nor suggests a second information processing apparatus receiving first unique information over a network from a first information processing apparatus in which the first unique information relates to a first recording medium. Nor does *Kataoka* teach or suggest a second information

processing apparatus receiving second unique information over a network from the first information processing apparatus in which the second unique information relates to the first information processing apparatus.

Other references cited in the Office Action do not provide the teachings which are lacking in *Kataoka*.

The other independent claims 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 contain similar recitations which distinguish them from *Kataoka*. In some cases, these other independent claims recite additional distinctions. In addition, amended claims 2-31 and new claim 39-42 which depend from the independent claims recite still other features which distinguish them from *Kataoka*. For example, *Kataoka* neither teaches nor suggests particular features of the invention recited in claim 16 in which the second information processing apparatus is operable to disable another information processing apparatus when the second information processing apparatus receives the same unique information from two different recording media.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0074] through [0083].

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

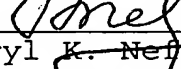
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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